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PROGRAM Eyewitness News

STATION WDVM TV
CBS-9

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SUBJECT Expanded Headquarters

J.C. HAYWARD: The CIA invited its neighbors for a rare public meeting tonight. The subject was the agency's plan to expand its headquarters. A proposal that is raising warning flags in the surrounding community.

Bob Althage has the story.

BOB ALTHAGE: One CIA official said the agency's security people are still in a state of shock. It was the first time in memory that so many ordinary citizens were invited inside the supersecret compound.

Cameras and other recording devices were barred at the gates.

The agency wants to spend \$190 million expanding its headquarters.

The extraordinary public meeting was called to brief the people who live nearby.

Most residents of the affluent area are concerned about traffic. They contend that bringing 3,000 more employees to Langley will over-burden already congested streets and highways.

WOMAN: If the CIA feels it needs to consolidate on-site then I support that. But I do not feel that my own concerns about safety, congestion, and ease of getting in and out of this neighborhood are necessarily incompatible with the goals of the CIA.

ALTHAGE: Agency officials concede the problems inherent

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in expanding the CIA's headquarters. But as it is now employees are scattered in more than 30 locations around Washington. Bringing them together at Langley will save taxpayers an estimated \$20 million a year in security and logistics expenses.

MAN: Knowing that the most valuable commodity that I own is my house, I can understand and sympathize with the people who live around here who have their homes -- what the impact would be. But the CIA has expressed willingness -- and I think we can work this thing out and solve the problems.

ALTHAGE: Most of the people who live nearby concede that the expansion of the CIA will take place but they want more say in how it's planned.

Officials assured them that when design work begins they will have a part in it.

Bob Althage, Eyewitness News Nightcast.